

Special Meeting
Minutes
5-2-2020

Call to Order: 11:05 AM

Commissioners Present: David Fakunle, PhD, Charles Chavis, PhD, Timothy D. Baker, Kirkland Hall, PhD, Elizabeth Hughes, Tamara Wilson, Elgin Klugh, PhD, Omar Eaton-Martinez, Nicholas Creary, PhD, Simone Barrett, PhD, Iris Barnes, PhD, Carl Snowden, Gary Norman

Staff Present: Zenita Hurley, Kristin McFarlane, Will Schwarz, Maya Davis, Chris Haley

Agenda Items:

- Emmett Till Cold Case Grant Final Review
- Grant Funding Vote

Emmett Till Cold Case Grant Review

The Chair, David Fakunle, presented the purpose of the Special Meeting, which was for the final review of the Emmett Till Cold Case grant. It was also an opportunity for commissioners to raise questions and make suggestions for edits to the application prior to submission.

Charles Chavis began by presenting an overview of the grant and structure of the workplan. Topics covered included the grant narrative and leadership structure. The Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery Team will serve as project managers for the work being compiled for the research portion of the grant. Quarterly reports on the work being undertaken will be provided by the commission for submission to the MLTRC Committee advisory boards. A large portion of the funds received from the grant will go towards the public hearings and reconciliation. During the presentation Commission Staff from the Office of the Attorney General explained that the grant application will focus on the MLTRC's legislative mandate and is written specifically to not focus on prosecution. Members of the Commission and the public were given an opportunity to pose questions before the second phase of the presentation.

Questions:

- Is the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project the primary stakeholder of funds distributed?
- What will be the involvement of the coalitions?
- Will the application be at risk of not being accepted because it doesn't have a prosecution focus?

The Second phase of the grant presentation focused on the Budget plan and justification. Charles Chavis went over all of the expenses that would be allotted on a yearly basis to fulfill the work of the commission. The grant will allocate funds for contracted services and equipment needed for public events. The first year will focus on the identification of descendants by a certified genealogist and the collection of Oral History interviews. Year two will focus on the

public hearings featuring testimonies from descendant communities and subject matter experts. Year three will focus on the restorative justice efforts to the community and the submission of the final report with recommendations to the Maryland Legislature. The timeline for the grant is based on the Federal fiscal year. The original timeline template created by the Logistics Committee will be pushed back by a year to accommodate for COVID 19 related cancellations.

An additional grant opportunity was shared with the Commission. It was recommended by Maryland OAG Staff to get a record of the vote for moving forward with the Emmett Till Cold Case Grant and to entertain the application of the NEH Cares Grant. A motion was made and seconded and a vote taken.

Grant Funding Vote

The following results are from the roll call vote for both the BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE Emmett Till Cold Case Investigation Grant and the NEH CARES Grant

David Fakunle, Ph.D. yea yea

David Armenti - Absent

Timothy D. Baker yea yea

Iris Leigh Barnes, Ph. D. yea yea

Simone Barrett, Ph.D. yea yea

DeNeen L. Brown - Absent

Charles L. Chavis, Jr., Ph.D. yea yea

Damika Baker - Absent

Nicholas Creary, Ph.D. yea yea

Roger Davidson, Ph.D. - Absent

Omar Eaton-Martinez yea yea

Kirkland Hall, Sr. Ph.D. yea yea

Elizabeth Hughes yea yea

Elgin Klugh, Ph.D. yea yea

Gary Norman yea yea

Carl Snowden yea yea¹

Marshall Stevenson, Ph.D. - Absent

Tamara Wilson, D.Min. yea yea

It was recommended that the MLTRC send a notice to the local coalitions regarding the grant application submission as we went before them to request collaborative support and received letters of support for the grant.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:47 PM

¹ Commissioner Snowden's phone was muted which prevented the group from hearing his response. Commission staff followed up with Mr. Snowden who confirmed his votes in support of moving forward with both grant opportunities.